INTRODUCTION

An Airport Master Plan provides an evaluation of the airport's aviation demand and an overview of the systematic airport development that will best meet those demands. The Master Plan establishes development objectives and provides for a 20-year planning period that details the rationale for various study elements including airfield configuration, facility development, land use recommendations, and support facilities. It also serves as a strategic tool for establishing airport improvement priorities and obtaining federal and state funding assistance.

The Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan has been undertaken to evaluate the airport's capabilities and role, to forecast future aviation demand, and to plan for the timely development of new or expanded facilities that may be required to meet that demand. The ultimate goal of the Master Plan is to provide guidelines for the airport's overall maintenance, development, and operation in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner while adhering to appropriate Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety design standards.

The preparation of this Master Plan is necessary as a timely reassessment of the development direction of Santa Fe Municipal Airport in order to meet the needs of the local economy and an ever-changing air transportation industry. The City of Santa Fe recognizes the importance of air transportation to the surrounding region as well as the unique challenges that operating an airport presents. The investment in an airport yields many benefits to both the community and the region which it serves. With a sound and realistic plan in place, Santa Fe Municipal Airport will continue to remain an important link to the regional and national air transportation systems and will maintain the public and private investments in its facilities.

STUDY OVERVIEW

The City of Santa Fe is responsible for funding capital improvements at the airport as well as obtaining FAA and New Mexico Department of Transportation – Aviation Division (NMDOT) development grants. In addition, the city oversees facility enhancements and infrastructure development conducted by private entities at the airport. The Master Plan is intended to provide guidance for future development and justification for projects which the airport may receive funding through an updated capital improvement program (CIP) to demonstrate the future investment required by the City of Santa Fe as well as the FAA and NMDOT.

The Master Plan will follow a systematic approach outlined by the FAA to identify existing and future airport needs in advance of the actual need for improvements. This is done to ensure that the City of Santa Fe and airport administration can coordinate environmental reviews, project approvals, design, financing, and construction to minimize the negative effects of maintaining and operating inadequate or insufficient facilities. The intended result is a recommended development concept which outlines the proposed uses for all areas of airport property.

The City of Santa Fe has contracted with Molzen Corbin (Santa Fe Municipal Airport's current engineer) in association with Coffman Associates, Inc. (a national airport planning firm) to undertake the Master Plan. The study is prepared in accordance with FAA requirements, including Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5070-6B, *Airport Master Plans*, and AC 150/5300-13A, *Airport Design*.

MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the Airport Master Plan is to provide the City of Santa Fe with guidance for future development of the airport and meeting the needs of existing and future users, while also being compatible with area development, other transportation modes, and the environment. Accomplishing this objective requires an evaluation of the existing airport so as to make a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain a safe, adequate, and reliable airport facility. The completed Airport Master Plan will produce a development concept which will provide airport officials with a program for future capital needs to aid in planning, scheduling, and budgeting.

While an Airport Master Plan must be developed according to FAA requirements, it can also be prepared in a manner which makes it useful in strategic planning for the airport. The FAA requires specific elements within a Master Plan. The elements, to be detailed in the following section, are guidelines which allow for a systematic and technical approach to reach the final recommended plan.

The Master Plan will provide a vision for the airport covering the next 20 years. It will be closely coordinated with other existing and ongoing planning studies in the area, as well as with aviation plans developed by the FAA and NMDOT.

Specific goals and objectives to be considered in the Master Plan include:

- Define the current and future aviation demand for Santa Fe Municipal Airport.
- Analyze existing and future airfield design parameters to meet existing and forecast demand.
- Produce current and accurate airport base maps and an updated airport layout plan (ALP) drawing set.
- Research and evaluate socioeconomic factors likely to affect air transportation demand in the region.
- Determine the projected facility needs of airport users.
- Recommend improvements that will enhance the airport's safety capabilities to the maximum extent possible.
- Establish a schedule of development priorities and prioritize the airport's CIP for the improvements proposed in the Master Plan.
- Develop the required level of environmental documentation for approval of the Master Plan.
- Be reflective of the goals and visions of the surrounding area, especially those related to quality of life, business and development, and land use.
- Develop active and productive public involvement throughout the planning process.
- Coordinate this Master Plan with local, state, and federal agencies.

BASELINE ASSUMPTIONS

A study such as this typically requires some baseline assumptions that will be used throughout the analysis. The baseline assumptions for this study include:

- The airport will continue to operate as a publicly owned commercial service airport through the planning period.
- The airport will continue to serve general aviation and corporate business aviation tenants as well as other itinerant operators.
- A federal and state airport improvement program will be in place through the planning period to assist in funding capital development needs.

MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS AND PROCESS

The Master Plan is being prepared in a fashion pursuant to the scope of services that has been coordinated with the City of Santa Fe, FAA, and NMDOT. The study has eight elements that are intended to assist in the identification of future facility needs and which provide the supporting rationale for their implementation. **Exhibit A** provides a graphical depiction of the elements and process involved with the study.

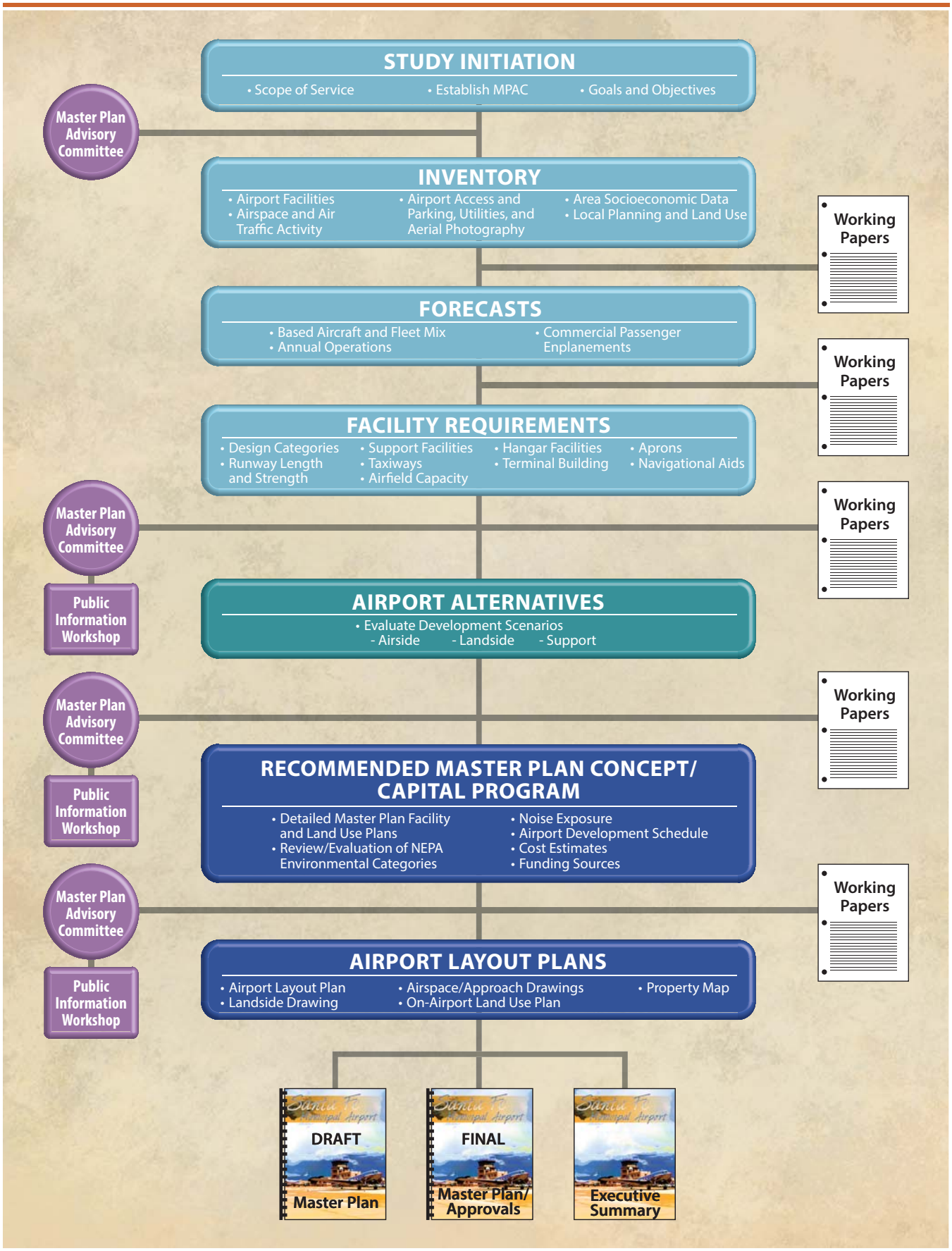

Exhibit A
PROJECT WORK FLOW

Element 1 – Study Initiation includes the development of the scope of services, budget, and schedule. A Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) is also formed and study material will be assembled in a workbook format. General background information will be established that will include outlining the goals and objectives to be accomplished during the Master Plan.

Element 2 – Inventory summarizes facilities and operational data, area airspace, weather conditions, population and economic data, vicinity land uses, and environmental conditions of the airport and surrounding area. New aerial photography and planimetric mapping of the airport is also obtained to aid in the study process.

Element 3 – Forecasts examines the potential aviation demand for commercial service, general aviation, air taxi, and military activity at the airport over a 20-year period. Specific indicators for based aircraft, aircraft operations, commercial service passenger enplanements, and peaking characteristics will be analyzed. The results of this effort are used to determine the types and sizes of facilities which would be required to meet the projected aviation demand at the airport through the long term planning period.

Element 4 – Facility Requirements converts aviation demand needs into types and volumes of actual physical facilities required to meet existing and forecast demands in aviation activity. The critical design aircraft and physical planning criteria based upon AC 150/5300-13A, *Airport Design*, is also established in preparation of a needs assessment for airside and landside facilities.

Element 5 – Airport Alternatives considers a variety of solutions to accommodate projected airside and landside facility needs through the long term planning period. An analysis is completed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each proposed development alternative, with the intention of determining a single direction for development.

Element 6 – Recommended Master Plan Concept/Capital Program provides both a graphic and narrative description of the recommended plan for the use, development, and operation of the airport following input from the MPAC, FAA, NMDOT, City of Santa Fe officials, and the general public. A detailed CIP is included which defines the schedule and costs for the recommended development projects. An environmental overview that analyzes potential environmental impacts generated by the recommended development program is also conducted.

Element 7 – Airport Layout Plans is developed to depict existing and proposed facilities and provides the official ALP drawings that are produced as a result of the recommended development plan. These drawings are used by the FAA and NMDOT in determining grant eligibility and funding.

Element 8 – Public Coordination and Final Documentation provides opportunities to inform the public on the Master Plan process. Working papers are prepared at various milestones in the planning process. A series of MPAC meetings and Public Information Workshops are also planned during the process to discuss study findings. A project website is also developed to aid in disseminating information

related to the Master Plan. Documents which depict the findings of the study effort are compiled and presented to appropriate local organizations during the final stages of the Master Plan study process.

STUDY PARTICIPATION

The Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan is of interest to many within the region. This includes local citizens, community organizations, airport users, airport tenants, area-wide planning agencies, and aviation organizations. As the airport is a strategic component of the regional, state, and national aviation systems, the Master Plan is of importance to both state and federal agencies responsible for overseeing air transportation.

The City of Santa Fe has identified a group of community members and aviation interest groups to act in an advisory role in the development of the Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan through the formation of the MPAC. The MPAC reviews material and provides comments throughout the study to help ensure that a realistic, viable plan is developed. **Table A** provides a list of those entities that are represented on the MPAC. The study schedule calls out four points during the process where the MPAC will convene to discuss issues related to the Master Plan.

TABLE A **Master Plan Advisory Committee - Representing Entities** **Santa Fe Municipal Airport**
City of Santa Fe - City Manager's Office
City of Santa Fe - Transportation Department
City of Santa Fe - Airport Division
City of Santa Fe - Land Use/Planning Department
Santa Fe City Council
Santa Fe Municipal Airport Advisory Board
Federal Aviation Administration
New Mexico Department of Transportation - Aviation Division
Santa Fe Airport Traffic Control Tower
New Mexico Army National Guard
Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce
Airport Tenant - Landmark Aviation
Local Citizen Representative
Aviation Association of Santa Fe
National Business Aviation Association
New Mexico Pilots Association
American Airlines
United Airlines
Santa Fe County Growth Management
Santa Fe County Economic Development
New Mexico State Land Office

A series of open house Public Information Workshops are also conducted as part of the study coordination effort. These workshops are designed to allow any and all interested persons to become informed and provide input concerning the Master Plan process. Notices of meeting times and locations are advertised through local media outlets. Draft working papers and other information related to the Master Plan are available to the public via a website dedicated to the study at: **http://santafemasterplan.airportstudy.com**.